

Claims

1. A ware washing process including the steps of:

5

(i) washing ware in a washing cavity of a ware washer with water and a ware washing detergent;

10

(ii) rinsing the ware in the ware washer with water; and

10

(iii) introducing a biocide into the washing cavity of the ware washer in order to provide a gaseous atmosphere thereof in the washing cavity, the biocide being introduced into the washing cavity prior to or contemporaneously with or subsequently to the washing or rinsing of the ware.

15

2. The ware washing process of claim 1, wherein the biocide is introduced into the washing cavity independently of the water.

20

3. The ware washing process of either one of claims 1 or 2, wherein the biocide is introduced into the washing cavity in gaseous phase.

25

4. The ware washing process of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the biocide is introduced into the cavity at a temperature of between 15°C to 25°C.

30

5. The ware washing process of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the biocide is introduced into the washing cavity at a pH of between 2 and 12.

6. The ware washing process of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the biocide is introduced at a pH of between 4 and 6 during a pre-rinse step carried out before the washing step of step (i).

7. The ware washing process of any one of the preceding claims, wherein water used in the ware washing process and exposed to the biocide is recycled.

5

8. The ware washing process of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the biocide is ozone.

9. The ware washing process of claim 8, wherein the ozone is generated by means of an ozone generator having an ozone outlet in fluid flow communication with the washing cavity of the ware washer.

10. The ware washing process of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the water is at a temperature of below 35°C.

15

11. The ware washing process of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the ware washing detergent includes an inorganic alkali, a complexing agent and at least one surfactant.

20 12. The ware washing process of claim 11, wherein the ware washing detergent comprises:

Component	% composition (by mass)
EDTA	4.00
NTA	7.00
Caustic soda lye	40.05
Water (softened)	46.70886
Triton BG-10	0.06615
Triton CF-32	0.08976
Bayhibit™ AM or Belclene® 650	0.01963
Water (softened)	2.0656

13. The ware washing process of any one of the preceding claims, wherein a rinse aid composition is used during rinsing, the rinse aid composition comprising at least one alkoxylated alcohol; and an acid.

5 14. The ware washing process of claim 13, wherein the rinse aid composition comprises:

Component	% composition (by mass)
Propyl alcohol	40.00
Citric Acid	0.10
Water (softened)	49.40
Synperonic™ LF/RA30	5.50
Synperonic™ LF/RA260	5.00

10 15. Use of a biocide in a ware washing process, the biocide being introduced into a washing cavity of a ware washer so as to provide a gaseous atmosphere thereof in the washing cavity.

15 16. The use of claim 15, wherein the biocide is introduced independently of water used to wash ware in the ware washer.

17. The use of claim 15 or 16, wherein the biocide is introduced into the washing cavity in gaseous phase.

20 18. The use of claim 15, wherein the biocide is ozone.

19. A ware washer (10), connectable to a source of water, the ware washer including a washing cavity (25), wherein ware (32) may be loaded therein, a water inlet (35) for introducing water into the washing cavity (25) and at least one inlet (45) for introducing detergent or rinse aid into the washing cavity, the ware washer being characterised in that it includes introduction means for introducing biocide into the washing

25

cavity so as to provide a gaseous atmosphere thereof in the washing cavity.

20. The ware washer of claim 19, wherein the biocide is ozone and the introduction means includes an ozone generator (15) having an ozone outlet (20) in fluid flow communication with the washing cavity (25) of the ware washer (10).